CLAIMS

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is as follows:

1. A communications system for transmitting and/or receiving signals with at least two communication devices via a real time and/or a polled transmission, said communications system comprising:

at least one first gateway responsively communicable with at least a first communications device and at least a second communications device, wherein said at least one first gateway at least one of transmits and receives signals on a real time basis with the at least one first communications device and the at least one second communications device;

at least one second gateway responsively communicable with the at least one first communications device and at least a third communications device, wherein said at least one second gateway at least one of transmits and receives signals on a polled basis with the at least one first communications device and

the at least one third communications device, said at least one first gateway and said at least one second gateway are operatively connectable to each other to perform the real time and the polled transmission based upon predetermined criteria, said at least one second gateway comprising:

a scheduler determining which of the at least one first communication devices are active;

a device action manager receiving notification from said scheduler and monitoring which of said at least one first communication devices have requested to download a message from said at least one third communications device;

a download manager receiving notification via said scheduler at which time messages associated with each of the at least one first communications device are to be downloaded;

a message lookup manager determining an identifier associated with each message associated with each of the at least one

first communications device and selecting those messages that have not been downloaded from the at least one third communications device to the respective first communications device; and

a message processor for retrieving messages from the third communications device and transmitting the messages to the respective designated first communications device as determined by a selection system.

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined criteria comprise an Internet domain name associated with each of the at least one first communications device and the at least one second communications device.

3. The system according to claim 2, wherein the Internet domain name comprises at least one of a name of an organization or a name of an individual combined with a top level domain name.

4. The system according to claim 3 wherein the top level domain names comprise: a) .com; b) .net; c)

.org; d) .edu; e) .gov; f) .mil; and g) .int.

5. The system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one first communications device comprises a wireless messaging device, and wherein the predetermined criteria comprises a first identifier associated with at least said at least one first gateway, and said second communications device comprises a wireless messaging device, and wherein the predetermined criteria further comprises a second identifier associated with at least said at least one first gateway, wherein the at least one first communications device and the at least one second communications device transmit signals to each other via said at least one first gateway.

6. The system according to claim 5, wherein said signals comprise at least one of an electronic mail message, an electronic page, and a paging message.

7. The system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one first communications device is a wireless messaging device having a first identifier associated with said at least one first gateway and

the at least one third communications device is an e-mail server storing messages for at least one e-mail account, each e-mail account having a second identifier associated therewith, wherein the at least one first communications device and the at least one third communications device transmit signals to each other via said first and second gateways, and wherein the predetermined criteria are respective identifiers associated with each of the at least one first communication device and the at least one third communication device.

8. The system according to claim 7 wherein the at least one third communications device is a post office protocol server.

9. The system according to claim 7 wherein the at least one third communications device is an internet messaging access protocol server.

10. The system according to claim 1, wherein the selection system allows a user to select at least one of the real time and polled transmission, wherein when the user selects the polled transmission, the signals comprise at least one e-

mail message that is retrieved from a specified e-mail account associated with the at least one third communications device and are transmitted to one of the at least one first communications device.

11. The system according to claim 10 wherein the user selects a name of the specified e-mail account via the selection system.

12. The system according to claim 11 wherein the user specifies a time at which the at least one e-mail message is transmitted from the at least one third communications device to the at least one first communications device.

13. The system according to claim 1 wherein said at least one second gateway further at least one of transmits and receives signals on a real time basis with the at least one first communication device and the at least one second communications device.

14. The system according to claim 13 wherein network load considerations determine whether said at least one first gateway or said at least one

second gateway is used to transmit signals from the at least one first communications device to the at least one second communications device, wherein when system traffic and/or response time is above a predetermined threshold level said at least one second gateway is used.

15. The system according to claim 1 wherein the signals comprise a facsimile transmitted from the at least one first communications device to the at least one third communications device in real time via said at least one first gateway and said at least one second gateway.

16. The system according to claim 1 wherein said scheduler further determines the time at which each of the at least one first communications device are to receive a message.

17. The system according to claim 1 wherein said scheduler accesses subscriber information from the selection system to determine user specified

download times.

18. The system according to claim 1 wherein said download manager downloads messages subsequent to receiving an indication from said scheduler and said lookup manager.

19. The system according to claim 1 wherein said message processor converts the message format of the at least one third communications device to a message format of the at least one first communications device.

20. The system according to claim 1 wherein said lookup manager deletes a message record when a corresponding message is transmitted to the at least one first communications device.

21. The system according to claim 1 wherein each of said at least one first gateways have a common domain name associated therewith.

22. A communications system for transmitting and/or receiving signals with at least two communication devices via a real time and/or a polled transmission, said communications system comprising:

at least one first gateway responsively communicable with at least a first communications device;

at least one second gateway that at least one of transmits and receives signals on a polled basis with the at least one first communications device and at least a second communications device, said at least one first gateway and said at least one second gateway are operatively connectable to each other to perform polled transmission between the at least one first communications device and the at least one second communications device based upon predetermined criteria, said at least one second gateway comprising:

a scheduler determining which of the at least one first communication devices are active;

a device action manager receiving notification from said scheduler and monitoring which of said at least one first communication devices have requested to download a message from the at least one second communications device;

a download manager receiving notification via said scheduler at which time messages associated with each of the at least one first communications device are to be downloaded;

a message lookup manager determining an identifier associated with each message associated with each of the at least one first communications device and selecting those messages that have not been downloaded from the at least one second communications device to the respective first communications device; and

a message processor for retrieving messages from the second communications device and transmitting the messages to the respective first communications device as determined by a selection system.

23. The system according to claim 22, wherein the predetermined criteria comprise an Internet domain name associated with each of the at least one first communications device and the at least one second communications device.

24. The system according to claim 22, wherein the Internet domain names comprise at least one of a name of an organization or a name of an individual combined with a top level domain name.

25. The system according to claim 24 wherein the top level domain names comprise: a) .com; b) .net; c) .org; d) .edu; e) .gov; f) .mil; and g) .int.

26. The system according to claim 25, wherein said signals comprise at least one of an electronic mail message, an electronic page, and a paging message.

27. The system according to claim 22, wherein the at least one first communications device is a wireless messaging device having a first identifier associated with said at least one first gateway and

the at least one second communications device is an e-mail server storing messages for at least one e-mail account, each e-mail account having a second identifier associated therewith, wherein the at least one first communications device and the at least one second communications device transmit signals to each other via said first and second gateways, and wherein the predetermined criteria are respective identifiers associated with each of the at least one first communication device and the at least one second communication device.

28. The system according to claim 27 wherein the at least one second communications device is a post office protocol server.

29. The system according to claim 27 wherein the at least one second communications device is an internet messaging access protocol server.

30. The system according to claim 22, wherein the selection system allows a user to select at least one of: a) a real time transmission between the at least one first communication device and at the least second communication device, and ii) the

polled transmission, wherein the signals comprise at least one e-mail message that is retrieved from a specified e-mail account associated with the at least one second communications device and are transmitted to one of the at least one first communications device.

31. The system according to claim 30 wherein the user selects a name of the specified e-mail account via the selection system.

32. The system according to claim 31 wherein the user specifies a time at which the at least one e-mail message is transmitted from the at least one second communications device to the at least one first communications device.

33. The system according to claim 22 wherein said scheduler further determines the time at which each of the at least one first communications device are to receive a message.

34. The system according to claim 22 wherein said scheduler accesses subscriber information from the selection system to determine user specified download times.

35. The system according to claim 22 wherein said download manager downloads messages subsequent to receiving an indication from said scheduler and said lookup manager.

36. The system according to claim 22 wherein said message processor converts the message format of the at least one second communications device to a message format of the at least one first communications device.

37. The system according to claim 22 wherein said lookup manager deletes a message record when a corresponding message is transmitted to the at least one first communications device.

38. The system according to claim 22 wherein each

of said at least one first gateways have a common domain name associated therewith.

39. A method of transmitting and/or receiving signals with at least two communication devices via a real time and/or a polled transmission, said method comprising the steps of:

determining based upon predetermined criteria whether the signals are to be transmitted in real time or on a polled basis; and

transmitting, upon determining that the signals are to be transmitted in real time, the signals from at least a first communications device to at least a second communications device via either a first gateway or a second gateway, and transmitting, upon determining that the signals are to be transmitted on a polled basis, the signals from at least a third communications device to at least the at least one first communications device via the first gateway and the second gateway.

40. The method according to claim 39 wherein the predetermined criteria is one of a) an identifier

associated with the at least one first communications device and an identifier associated with the at least one second communications device, or b) an identifier associated with the at least one first communications device and an identifier associated with the at least one third communications device.

41. The method according to claim 40, wherein the identifier comprises an Internet domain name comprising at least one of a name of an organization or a name of an individual combined with a top level domain name.

42. The method according to claim 40 wherein the top level domain names comprise: a) .com; b) .net; c) .org; d) .edu; e) .gov; f) .mil; and g) .int.

43. The method according to claim to claim 39 wherein the signals comprise at least on of an electronic mail message, an electronic page, and a paging message.

44. The method according to claim 39 wherein in a

polled transmission the at least one first communication device is a wireless device and the at least one third communications device is a server.

45. The method according to claim 44 wherein the server is a post office protocol server.

46. The method according to claim 44 wherein the server is an internet messaging access protocol server.

47. A method of transmitting and/or receiving signals with at least two communication devices via a real time and/or a polled transmission, said method comprising the steps of:

determining based upon predetermined criteria whether the signals are to be transmitted in real time or on a polled basis; and

transmitting, upon determining that the signals are to be transmitted in real time, the signals from at least a first communications device to at least a second communications device via either a first gateway or a second gateway, and transmitting, upon determining that the signals are to be transmitted on a polled basis, the

signals from at least a third communications device to the at least one first communications device via the first gateway and the second gateway, the second gateway performing the steps of:

determining which of the at least one first communications device is active;

monitoring which of the at least one first communications device has requested to download a message from the at least one third communications device;

monitoring when messages associated with each of the at least one first communications device are to be downloaded;

recognizing an identifier associated with each message associated with each of the at least one first communications device and selecting those messages that have not been downloaded from the at least one third communications device to the at least one first communications device; and

retrieving messages not yet downloaded from the at least one third communications device and transmitting at least one

message to a designated one of the at least one first communications device.

48. The method according to claim 47 wherein the predetermined criteria is one of a) an identifier associated with the at least one first communications device and an identifier associated with the at least one second communications device, or b) an identifier associated with the at least one first communications device and an identifier associated with the at least one third communications device.

49. The method according to claim 48, wherein the identifier comprises an Internet domain name comprising at least one of a name of an organization or a name of an individual combined with a top level domain name.

50. The method according to claim 49 wherein the top level domain names comprise: a) .com; b) .net; c) .org; d) .edu; e) .gov; f) .mil; and g) .int.

51. The method according to claim to claim 49

wherein the signals comprise at least one of an electronic mail message, an electronic page, and a paging message.

52. The method according to claim 49 wherein in a polled transmission the at least one first communication device is a wireless device and the at least one third communications device is a server.

53. The method according to claim 52 wherein the server is a post office protocol server.

54. The method according to claim 52 wherein the server is an internet messaging access protocol server.

55. The method according to claim 47, wherein the at least one first communications device comprises a wireless messaging device, the second communications device comprises a wireless messaging device, and the predetermined criteria comprise an identifier associated with the at least one first gateway.

56. The method according to claim 55, wherein said signals comprise at least one of an electronic mail message, an electronic page, and a paging message.

57. The method according to claim 47, wherein the at least one first communications device is a wireless messaging device having a first identifier associated with said at least one first gateway and the at least one third communications device is an e-mail server storing messages for at least one e-mail account, each e-mail account having a second identifier associated therewith, wherein the at least one first communications device and the at least one third communications device transmit signals to each other via said first and second gateways, and wherein the predetermined criteria are respective identifiers associated with each of the at least one first communication device and the at least one third communication device.

58. The method according to claim 57 wherein the at least one third communications device is a post office protocol server.

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59. The method according to claim 57 wherein the at least one third communications device is an internet messaging access protocol server.

60. The method according to claim 47, further comprising the step of selecting at least one of the real time and polled transmission, wherein when a user selects the polled transmission, the signals comprise at least one e-mail message that is retrieved from a specified e-mail account associated with the at least one third communications device and are transmitted to one of the at least one first communications device.

61. The method according to claim 60 wherein the user specifies a time at which the at least one e-mail message is transmitted from the at least one third communications device to the at least one first communications device.

62. The method according to claim 47 wherein said at least one second gateway further at least one of transmits and receives signals on a real time basis with the at least one first communication device and

the at least one second communications device.

63. The method according to claim 62 wherein network load considerations determine whether said at least one first gateway or said at least one second gateway is used to transmit signals from the at least one first communications device to the at least one second communications device, wherein when system traffic and/or response time is above a predetermined threshold level said at least one second gateway is used.

64. The method according to claim 47 further comprising the step of converting the message format of the at least one third communications device to a message format of the at least one first communications device.

65. The method according to claim 64 further comprising the step of deleting a message record when a corresponding message is transmitted to the at least one first communications device.